



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 287

February Session, 2004

House Bill No. 5168

House of Representatives, March 29, 2004

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. WALLACE of the 109th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO ESTABLISH
PROGRAMS FOR THE PUBLIC FINANCING OF CAMPAIGNS FOR
ELECTION TO MUNICIPAL OFFICES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) Notwithstanding the
2 provisions of section 7-192a of the general statutes, any municipality
3 may, by ordinance, establish (1) a voluntary program for the public
4 financing of campaigns of candidates for election to the offices of chief
5 executive officer of the municipality, municipal clerk, and member of
6 the legislative body of the municipality, who agree to limit campaign
7 fund-raising and expenditures, and (2) a commission to administer and
8 enforce such program. The municipality shall pay the costs of
9 administering and enforcing such program. Any such ordinance shall
10 be subject to the provisions of chapter 150 of the general statutes and
11 shall not contain provisions that are less restrictive than the provisions
12 of said chapter 150. A candidate for any such office who decides not to
13 participate in such program shall be subject to the provisions of

14 chapter 150. Any such public financing shall not be deemed to be
15 public funds for the purposes of subsection (d) of section 9-333l of the
16 general statutes, as amended.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

GAE *Joint Favorable C/R*

PD

PD *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
All Municipalities	Cost	Potential Indeterminate	Potential Indeterminate

Explanation

This bill gives municipalities the authority to pass an ordinance establishing a program for the public financing of campaigns for municipal offices. The bill also allows municipalities to establish a commission to administer and enforce a public financing of campaigns program.

This bill has no fiscal impact on the state, as municipalities, should they establish a public financing program, are required to pay the program's administration and enforcement costs.

Municipalities would incur indeterminate costs to establish, administer, and enforce a public financing program. The bill does not address funding mechanisms to pay for the public financing of municipal election campaigns.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5168

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO ESTABLISH
PROGRAMS FOR THE PUBLIC FINANCING OF CAMPAIGNS FOR
ELECTION TO MUNICIPAL OFFICES****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows municipalities to establish, by ordinance, their own voluntary public financing programs and commissions to administer and enforce them. Municipalities that pass this ordinance must pay all costs necessary to administer and enforce the program.

The ordinance would allow candidates for the offices of chief executive office, municipal clerk, and member of the town legislative body to receive public financing if they agree to limit their campaign fundraising and expenditures. Any candidate for these offices who decides not to participate in the program must comply with the state's campaign finance laws, including those, for example, on contribution limits, reporting requirements, and illegal practices.

The bill requires an ordinance's campaign finance provisions to be at least as restrictive as the state's campaign finance laws. It specifies that funds received through public financing are not subject to the law's prohibition against using public funds for advertisements or promotional materials featuring a candidate during months immediately preceding an election.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 10 Nay 7

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 10 Nay 9